

Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig. 2 has been amended to show reference numeral 130, which designates the swing reflecting mirror shown therein and which is mentioned in the specification at, for example, page 15, lines 9, 21 and 23.

In addition, Fig. 5 has been amended to change reference numeral 45 to 345, to properly identify the delivery tray 345, in accordance with the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 31, line 2.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes
 Replacement Sheets

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. In particular, the specification has been amended to mention reference character S in Fig. 4, reference numbers 356 and 357 in Fig. 5, and to refer to Light Sources A and B identified in Fig. 5.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 2 and 5 have been amended as described hereinabove to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware..

Submitted herewith are corrected sheets of formal drawings which incorporate the amendments and annotated sheets showing the changes made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to Figs. 2 and 5 be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate subject matter previously recited in (now canceled) original claims 6, 10 and 13.

In addition, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to make some minor clarifying amendments.

Still further, claims 7-9 have been amended to depend from claim 5, and claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend from claims 11 and 12, respectively.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amended claims are all in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection thereunder be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-17 were all rejected under 35 USC 102 or 35 USC 103 as being anticipated by JP 07-144403 ("Nishitani") or USP 6,523,948 ("Matsumodo et al"), or as being obvious in view of the combination of Nishitani and USP 5,432,537 ("Imakawa et al") or Matsumoto et al and Imakawa et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 5, an image printing apparatus is provided which comprises: first and second rotary drums adapted to have a printing sheet wound therearound; first and second ink jet printing heads which correspond respectively to the first and second rotary drums, and each of which discharges photo-curing ink in order to print an image on the printing sheet wound around the corresponding rotary drum; a first irradiation optical path along which rays are irradiated to a first image printing surface of the printing sheet wound around the first rotary drum; a second irradiation optical path along which rays are irradiated to a second image printing surface of the printing sheet wound around the second rotary drum; and light irradiation means for irradiating the rays along the first and second irradiation optical paths to irradiate the image printing surfaces by optical scanning via a reflecting mechanism. According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 5, moreover, the printing sheet is wound around the first rotary drum with the first image printing surface facing outward, and is then wound around the second rotary drum with the second image printing surface facing outward.

That is, as shown in Figs. 5 and 7, for example, the printing apparatus of the claimed present invention includes first and

second rotary drums (341, 343) that are adapted to have paper wound there around. Printing on surfaces of the sheet is performed by first and second printing heads (342, 344) which correspond respectively to the first and second drums, and rays are irradiated by light irradiation means along first and second irradiation optical paths (715, 716) which correspond respectively to the first and second drums to irradiate the image printing surfaces by optical scanning via a reflecting mechanism. And as explained in detail in the specification with respect to Fig. 7, the printing sheet is wound around the first rotary drum with the first image printing surface facing outward, and is then wound around the second rotary drum with the second image printing surface facing outward.

With this structure, printing can be performed on both sides of the printing sheet, and rays of light for curing the ink can be scanned on both printed surfaces to cure the photo-curing ink used for printing.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest first and second rotary drums, first and second printing heads and first and second irradiation optical paths as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 5, whereby the printing sheet is wound around the first rotary drum with the first image printing surface facing

outward, and is then wound around the second rotary drum with the second image printing surface facing outward.

Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references even disclose two rotary drums around which a printing sheet is wound. In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that rollers 24 and 25 of Matsumoto et al, which the Examiner has cited with respect to the rotary drum of the claimed present invention, are merely platen rollers, and no paper is wound around the platen rollers 24 and 25 of Matsumoto et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 5, and amended claims 7-9, 11, 12 and 14-17 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Matsumoto et al, taken singly or in combination with any of the other cited references, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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LH/DH:iv

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FIG.2

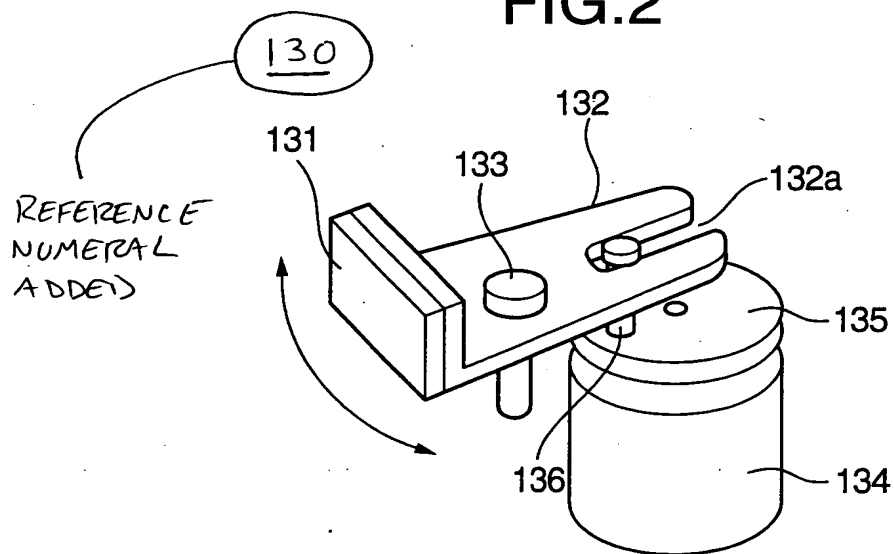


FIG.3

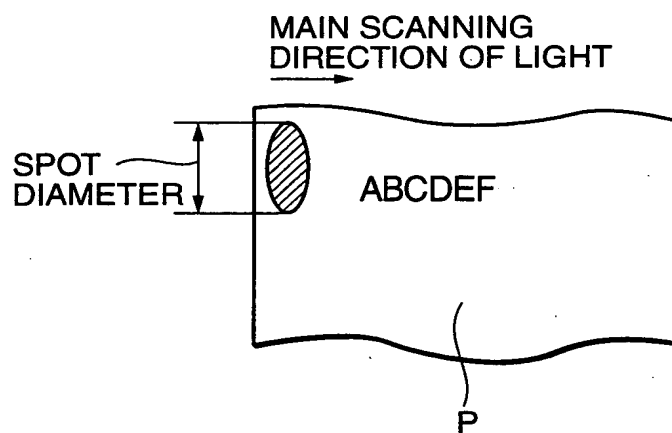


FIG.5

